SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

the RARA RAG

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Office Of Emergency Preparedness At Feb. Meeting

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

October 1996 was the last time the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness addressed RARA. George Lloyd, N2UIO wrote the topic announcement at the time. His write up is applicable now and is repeated below.

As you all know, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association is mainly a public service oriented club. Many of us have participated in a wide range of public service events that the club has involved itself with. Everything from foot races to horse shows. But there is one public service that stands out from them all and I believe is the most important to each and every one of us. I am speaking about public safety and our club's role in association with the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Amateur radio operators have always volunteered to assist the community by providing emergency communications whenever possible during times of disaster and RARA is certainly no exception. Many of our members have done just that. We are all very fortunate indeed to live in a county that has such an extensive public safety program.

I have invited the Administer of Monroe County's Office of Emergency Preparedness, Muffy Meisenzahl, to visit us and speak about OEP and the various services that they provide our community. I think her visit will be a real "eye-opener" for those who aren't too familiar with OEP and what they do. I for one have seen the OEP in action last year during the Ginna nuclear power plant drill and pre drill when I volunteered to participate by sending ATV pictures back to the command center at Westfall Rd. I was impressed to see what lengths civil servants and amateur radio volunteers go to in order to insure our safety. This was and is a prime example of amateur radio serving the community for the common good.

Ms. Meisenzahl will discuss many aspects of the Office of Emergency Preparedness such as the Ginna drills, assorted emergency services, civil

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Scholarship Available To Members

Richard Goslee, K2VCZ

RARA is pleased to announce that a $300 scholarship is available to a student attending College next fall. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" has been established with generous donations made in memory of William Buchan, W2OMV and William Resch, K4VOS. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RARA and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years.

Applications are due no later than April 15th. The RARA Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee will make a final decision by May 15th of each year. The actual award will be presented at the annual RARA Hamfest Banquet held shortly thereafter.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at the February, March and April RARA general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RARA phone at 442-0587. Additional information and a copy of the application is available on the RARA web site at http://www.ggw.org/rara/scholarship.htm, or from one of the officers.

Additional "tax exempt donations" in memory W2OMV, K4VOS or any other silent key may be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 4692-8333.

RARA Meeting

February 2, 2001

Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

Office Of Emergency Preparediness

Presented by Muffy Meisenzahl

the RARA RAG

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Great Rochester Area Youth Net (GRAYN)

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

All it takes is just fifteen minutes. That's right, the Great Rochester Area Youth Net (GRAYN) continues to meet weekly on the air waves to provide a place for young people to learn about and talk about amateur radio in an environment all their own. If you know of young people in your neighborhood that might like to talk to other people their age through the 'magic' of radio invite them to your station.

Kids love to talk to kids and in this venue that is just what they do under the skillful guidance of a mentor. You too can be a mentor in only 15 minutes a week! All you need is any type of a two-meter rig capable of making solid contact through the GRA or RRRA repeaters.

Take 15 minutes to interest a young person in amateur radio. Tune and sign on to the Great Rochester Area Youth Net (GRAYN) during one of the following times:

Month	Day	Frequency
January	18	146.79
	25	146.88
February	1	146.79
	8	146.88
	15	146.79
	22	146.88
March	1	146.79
	8	146.88

OEP Meeting — *continued from page 1*

defense and the roll of amateur radio volunteers. This will be one NOT to miss. The day may come when their help will be sorely needed and we should all be ready. Remember the ice storms? *(Thanks John-Ed)*

I would like to thank Ms. Meisenzahl for graciously accepting the invitation to address us at the February meeting. I know her discussion will be informative and very interesting to everybody. I hope to see you all there.

A comment once made by Scott Bauer, W2LC, WNY Section Manager: "The community will be well served if every operator makes one public service event every year."

SILENT KEY

John D. Tillotson, N2XUY
December 30, 2000

Rochester Museum And Science Center Amateur Radio Exhibits

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

The attached excerpt is from the Rochester DX Association's newsletter. It reports on the successful HF station that was operated under the RARA banner. Both clubs made the 6 PM news on WHEC TV.

The cooperation between members of these clubs brought the excitement of ham radio to hundreds of museum attendees. The Radio Coaches were busy at an adjacent table. These two exhibits complemented each other and resulted in an exhibit that was bigger than its parts. It was enjoyable to everyone. Hams at the Radio Coach exhibit were N2BEL, N2JAC, AB2ER, KB2ZFJ and W2SKY.

The recent operation at the Rochester Museum and Science Center certainly helped get a lot of RDXA folks over their post-holiday blues. Over 3000 people visited the museum during the 4 days of the Science and Technology Fair...many of whom stopped by the RDXA/RARA display to have a look at Amateur Radio in action.

Superb conditions on 10m enabled us to make 148 contacts in 38 countries using all modes: ssb, am, cw and even a full quieting, FM DX contact with Italy! With so many of these QSOs, we were able to get visitors on the air to exchange a comment or question with the DX. Kids especially got a thrill from talking with someone in a far-away land, and the expressions of surprise and joy on their faces when they heard their name come back over the radio made all the work worthwhile.

Possibly the most interesting contact was with Tom, S57RTH. I was operating and trolling for contacts when out of the ether came a booming signal with a West Texas accent you could cut with a knife. But instead of the anticipated W5 call, I copied an S5. "Hmmm...probably an American at the embassy, or some expert tech installing cell sites," I thought. On the next over I asked Tom where he was from in Texas. Imagine my surprise at the drawling answer, "No, no, I wuz bern heah in Slovenia, but I bet yew think I'm from El Paso." Turns out Tom's English teacher was from El Paso! What fun it was to listen to Tom from Slovenia speaking perfect English with a West Texas drawl. All the visitors and ops got a real chuckle out of this cross-cultural pollination. Ham radio truly does span the globe!

Thanks to all from RDXA who helped make this event a success: K2MP and N2BEG helped with antenna installation and takedown. As always,

contiued on page 4

June 16th RARA Picnic

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Now is the best time to remind you of our June 16th picnic.

I am relaxing in a lawn chair enjoying our RARA picnic. The warm sun is beaming down on me tanning my face and skin that is exposed by my Florida shirt and shorts. I wave at a friend who just stepped from the cabin privately noting that I must say hello to him later. His hands are full. In one is a heaping plate of food. A drink is in the other. His HT is bouncing from one hip and his female friend bumping into the other. There is a really tasty looking pie piled on the top of his plate.

Staring into the distance I see a car sporting an antenna farm roaming from site to site through the park. I wonder who it is. No doubt he is looking to join us. The June VHF QSO Party was last weekend. Wonder how he did.

Suddenly a dozen people burst out of the cabin and scatter in every direction! The kids rush hundreds of feet from the cabin. The older ones pace only 50. All of them stop abruptly and twirl with their face focused on the HT's held closely to their chest. Another foxhunt has started. This is very entertaining to watch. Who will win the biggest foxhunt prize? Who will win the door prize? How many pop tabs were in that jar anyway?

The occasional rustling of leafs cover other lawn chair engagements and a murmur from the picnic tables is made unintelligible by the consumption of goodies. The food is wonderful. Some food is home made, some supplied by Wegmans kitchens. "Dish to pass" picnics are always interesting, and it's almost free, the soda is.

At very quiet times I can hear a faint babble from the Irondequoit Creek behind me. Some people are touring it in a canoe. Suddenly a muted roar rising near Irv's car covers it. "We got em!" He and some young kids...and older kids...just worked that DX station on 10 meters. The music is wonderful here. The cw fox id just triggered and I can hear it in pentonic stereo! The fox must be hidden near me.

Time to get up and say hello to Joe. Think I'll get another beer from my stash in the orange cooler over there. Help yourself to one. See you at field day next weekend.

Join us at the RARA picnic, June 16th at the Creekside cabin in Ellison Park, Penfield. BYOB, HT and friend.

FOR SALE: Linear Amplifier, Dentron DTR1200L, 1 kW CW, 1.2 kW SSB, 80 thru 15 meters, pair 572B's, with manual, tested. Bargain at $195.00. Ed Gable K2mp (716) 392-3088 or k2mp@eznet.net

Public Servece 2001

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The following dates are those that I have as of January 1st. They may change and if they do I will get the correct dates published in the *RARA RAG* as soon as they become available.

The R. E. Ginna drill does require that any one wishing to work this event is a member of R.A.C.E. S. and has proper county identification. Other than the Ginna drill, anyone is welcome to volunteer whether they are a member of RARA or not. If you have not worked on any event before, I am sure you will enjoy these events.

If you need more information, call me at 624-1929.

Skywarn Training - February 10, 2001
Snow Day - February 24, 2001
R. E. Ginna Radiological Pre Drill - May 2, 2001
R. E Ginna Radiological Drill - June 6, 2001
Tour de Cure - June 9, 2001
Stuart Horse Trials - August 4, 2001
Walnut Hill Carriage Show - August 15 to 20, 2001

Thank You

Muffy Meisenzahl

This is a "thank you" to all amateur radio operators who participated in the 2000 Halloween "Pumpkin Patrol."

The New York State Police are appreciative of all local efforts to promote safety on the highways. And, we certainly appreciate the local amateur operators who continuously share their time and talents to promote local public safety.

Roch. Museum Exhibit — *cont. from page 3*

AF2K brought us valuable support materials. N2CK, K2MP, K2SKO, N2BEG, K1PY, N2YPM, K2CS and N2TWI held operating and logging positions and were responsible for getting visitors on the air. A great effort by RDXA!

Indeed, Museum officials were so impressed by our showing that there is a real possibility for a semi-permanent Amateur Radio presence at RMSC. Several of us hams suggested that, with the installation of a permanent ham antenna, Amateurs from around the area could easily set up an ad hoc station from time-to-time for a few hours or a day. This suggestion was met with enthusiasm by the Museum management. More to come...

Mike - N1OKL

(Thanks to RDXA News Letter)

RARA License Class

Tim Magee, WB2KAO

We would like to inform you of the Fall License Class results. We had 6 students take the 5 WPM CW test and all passed. They were John Rogers, KB2WPP, Mark Delaney, KC2GMG, Greg Michaels, KC2GXV, Jennifer LeBaron, John Broadhead, KC2HHP and Dale Fravel, N2LWY. John Broadhead, KC2HHP also passed the Technician Theory test. Our General class graduates are Kristy Dibelka, KC2GKE, Greg Michaels, KC2GXV, John Rogers, KB2WPP, Mark Delaney, KC2GMG and Larry Safford, KC2FVF. Paul Robertson, N2XZF, passed the Extra Theory exam.

Spring 2001 License Classes will begin with registration on Monday Feb. 12, 2001 at 7 PM at the Monroe County Social Services building at 111 Westfall Road in the Auditorium. Five WPM CW, Technician, General and Extra Theory classes will be offered. CW and Extra Theory will be taught from 7 to 8 PM and Technician and General Theory will be taught from 8 to 9 PM. Classes will run each Monday through testing on May 14, 2001. Questions may be directed to Tim, WB2KAO at 716-865-0384 or via e-mail wb2kao@yahoo.com.

RARA Family Picnic
June 16, 2001

Rochester Hamfest
June 1, 2, And 3
2001

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Rochester Hamfest Programs

Lloyd R. Caves, WB2EFU

Each year in the middle of the winter and knee deep in the snow a lot of us start to think about spring, wishing for warm weather and the possibilities of getting out to some Hamfests. Well it is not the first Hamfest in the area but the Rochester Hamfest/ Atlantic Division Convention is by far the largest. The dates for this year's Hamfest are June 1st through the 3rd.

Along with all the exhibitors equipment displays, and flea market spaces to visit there are always a few programs taking place for your enjoyment. During the next three months there will be a description of a few of these in each issue of the *RAG*. This will give everyone a chance to see which ones they would like to attend. They are all fun and informative. The May issue will have the schedule of all the programs listed showing the times and the conference rooms they will be held in. Here we go.

VE Testing:

VE testing will be held on the fair grounds this year. That should make it easier for those wishing to get their license or to upgrade to a higher class. Not only will they be held on the grounds so you won't have to leave the Hamfest but they will be held on two different days during the weekend. This is being done thanks to George Plattater, AA2FO and his RARA VE team.

Radio Control Modeling:

Mark Wharton, KØLO, President of the State College Radio Control Club will be joining us from Pennsylvania. Mark is a professor of electrical engineering at State College. He will discuss the radio control model airplane hobby. He will demonstrate various aircraft models and how to do model flying.

Western New York Section Meeting:

Scott Bauer, W2LC, Western New York Section Manager will be in Rochester to see and talk to everyone that he can. Scott is a very knowledgeable man on the ARRL and the Western New York Section. He will hold a meeting for all his appointees and anyone that may be interested in becoming one. This is a good time to see each other face-to-face and go over items of concerns or of interest. Scott wants his team to pass on ideas and thoughts to each other so as to keep the section running smooth. At the same time he will be passing on information that may be of importance for everyone.

Happenings In The National Traffic System:

NTS Official Bill Thompson, W2MTA will host a discussion on the present day and future features of NTS operations in the millennium. If you are a traffic handler or think that you might be interested in

continued

RARA RAG 20 Years Ago, January 1981

Ed Gable, K2MP

A very special program was provided this month, well remembered by this writer, as Mr. George Peter, a research engineer from Cornell University, presented a slide program on the radio telescope facility at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The venue is the Statesman Club on top of the downtown First Federal building. This will be the 3rd meeting at this location, which was getting mixed reviews. Lee Van Grol, WA2YEK, described the planned February 14th RARA Dinner Dance to be held at the Beahan Party house with the Peter Matina orchestra. This was a short *RARA RAG* with only 4 pages. Irv Goodman, AF2K, Membership Chairman, reported 684 members. The FCC issued a new form 610, which facilitates the new Phase three callsign changes. Applicants for the first time needed to indicate an option of keeping their old callsign when upgrading. Not doing so would automatically issue a new call. An OEP/RARA meeting resulted in RARA being asked to provide communications to shelters in the event of a Ginna Power plant event evacuation. Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, writing under the heading *RARA DX Award*, reported that Nate Minosh, WB2LJG, was the winner. No other details were given and I do not believe there has been a *RARA DX* award since. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported that RARA's code and theory courses would start an Advanced class on February 11th, taught by Harold Munday, KD2K. A long time advertiser was *Harvey's Ham*, of Caldonia, NY. From the want ads you could by a Tempo FHM hand held from Carty Ellis, KA2Y.

Hamfest Programs — *continued*

becoming one this meeting is for you. Learn what is happening on the nets and how you can play a key roll in them or just become a part of them.

Joint Mars Forum:

This years Joint Mars Meeting will be hosted by Wayne Lightsey, AAR2NY, NY State Army Mars Director; Wells Farr, AFF1NY, NY State Air Force Mars Director; and Ed Kessler, NNNØGBJ, Coordinator, Northern New York Navmarcormars. These gentlemen will bring all Mars members up to speed as to the happenings and changes that may be taking place. They will also answer everyone's questions that may be interested in joining one of the Mars organizations.

That is all for this month. Watch for this column again in March to learn about more programs being presented for your enjoyment.

Comments And Concerns

The following is the Board Of Directors response to the concern from Harold Smith, K2HC that was in the January *RAG:*

The Board of Directors of RARA would like to thank you for taking the time to express your concerns in your letter of November 12th. The Board always welcomes input from the members.

The opinion of the Board is that we have not changed any of the terms of membership as stated in Article I Section F of the RARA By-Laws. The expiration of the term of membership is October 31st as has always been stated on our membership cards and also on our membership applications. This is also what is stated in any articles in the *RAG*. This date has never been changed. The Board is also of the opinion that Article I Section F does not state that we are obligated to do anything for the member after that date.

Article I Section G states that after December 31st the member will be ineligible to participate in corporation activities. It does not state that we have to send a copy of the *RAG* to the member.

Article XI Section B states that the Board of Directors will have final authority in matters relating to the scope and policy of the bulletin. The Board believes this covers their actions in not sending the *RAG* to those people who's term of membership has expired on October 31st.

The Board of Directors does make one modification to the membership term and that is to increase the term for those people paying after April 1st of any year. Rather than just saying that the dues payment is for the balance of the current year we say that it covers the balance of the current year (2 issues of the *RAG*) and all of the following year. We feel this is only fair.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, RARA President at any time. Thanks again for your input and all of your other activities on behalf of RARA.

RRRA

Rachel Schwing, KC2DKB

RRRA met at the Pittsford Town Hall on Friday, January 19th. They viewed the sci-fi flick "Frequency" after a short business meeting. "Frequency" is about a son who mysteriously is able to communicate with his father in the past through amateur radio. So, it's not scientifically accurate, but it's a nice story. It is hoped all enjoyed the movie and indulged in some popcorn.

The next meeting of the RRRA will be February 16th at the Pittsford Town Hall. Hope you will join us there.

DX/Contesting Report

Ed Gable, K2MP

The surprise DX of the season has to be the sudden arrival of 3Y0C, Bouvet Island, on the bands. Bouvet is #10 on the world's most wanted list and as been causing a lot of commotion and QRM by too eager DX'ers. The operator at 3Y0C is on the rare and exotic island as part of a scientific organization and is not a DXpedition. He can be found afternoons and evenings on 28.495 or 14.195 listening up, but only for a few more weeks.

Another exciting DXpedition this month is Syria as YK9A. They will be QRV on all bands and modes for nine days starting February 3rd. Syria is #24 on the most wanted list for the US. QSL via K9LA.

You may have heard a very active CE9/R1ANF on the bands, especially 30 meters. He is Oleg and is on So. Shetlands Island. The 30 meter band has been very good for DX lately. Winter brings nice propagation and quiet conditions. Try it.

The usually difficult pair of JD1's on Minami Torishima or Ogasawara Islands, are both QRV at the moment. Look for Minami Torishima as JD1BCK on 21265 kHz starting 0700Z and JD1BIA on Ogasawara on 21260 kHz at around 0800.

Another very active catch is Bangladesh, S21YT, operating many modes and bands, QSL via JA7KXD.

This month's contests are the CQ WW WPX RTTY February 10th, the ARRL International DX CW weekend on Feb 17th, and CQ 160 meter SSB on Feb 23rd. See *QST, CQ* or their web sites for details.

The next meeting of the RDXA is February 20th, 7:30 PM at the usual 111 Westfall Road site. Visit the RDXA Web site at www.qsl.net/rdxa. (Tnx ARRL and 425 DX News).

NEXT *RAG* DEADLINE
February 9, 2001

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China Clippings

Ron Roach, W2FUI

HANGBZHOU CITY, CHINA: The restructuring of the Chinese amateur radio license classes in 1997 produced four distinct classes of privileges.

The lowest class covers SWL only and is assigned the prefix BG followed by a number series; China, like other countries, license radio receivers.

The 2nd Class privilege limits power to 10 watts with CW operation on 7.040—7.060 Mhz and 21.100—21.150 Mhz. SSB operation is limited to 7.060—7.120 Mhz. and 21.400—21.450 Mhz. The prefix for this class is BG. FM operation is allowed on 29.600 - 29.700 at the same power level; the prefix for this mode is BH.

CW and SSB privileges for the 3rd class operation are on frequencies that match the U.S. operation frequencies, although the SSB lower band edge frequencies match the European spectrum. For example, on 40 meters, the Chinese band covers 7.040—7.150 Mhz. The prefix for this license class is BD, and the power allowed is 100 watts.

The 4th license class using a BA prefix, grants the same spectrum privileges as the 3rd class with a power of 1.2 KW. Some of the larger cities, including here in Hangzhou, restrict the power. I visited BZ5HAN's new apartment, examined the breaker box, and discovered that the main breaker is rated at only 24 AMPS. Shanghai, Beijing and other large population centers apply similar restrictions.

A Chinese operator must operate for five years as a 2nd class licensee before taking the test for the 3rd class license. He then must operate for five more years as a 3rd class licensee before applying for 4th class privileges. A "long march" indeed, for those who aspire to the highest-class license.

When I ask my Chinese amateur radio friends where most of the amateur activity is found in the country, they inform me that 40 meters is the band of choice. This is because many do not feel competent with a foreign language, and use 40 meters as their national frequency.

Next I'll take you "bar-hopping" (will explain next month) in Haangzhou City—Internet style.

RARA HOTLINE
(716) 442-0587

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RARA Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements Needed To Complete a License Class

Saturday February 17, 2000

Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM

Social Services Building
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester

Inquires (716) 334-4488
aa2fo@rpa.net

SKYWARN Training

February 10, 2001

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February 9, 2001

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